



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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In This Issue



IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to another issue of 'ABS News for Libraries' - though don't be put off by the title. We believe that the information we write about is of interest to a wide audience.

Census 2006! We have been talking about the Census for so long now it is hard to believe the release data for 2006 data is just around the corner. The Census will be launched on June 27 in Melbourne at the Data Processing Centre. The Census release always generates a lot of interest in all sectors of the Australian community. If you are interested in Census training, or would like to promote Census to your clients, why not contact us and discuss how the ABS can support you.

In this issue you can read about some excellent statistical publications that have been released recently, demystify the subject of CURFs and discover the research goldmine they can represent for you or your clients, as well as articles and information of relevance to all

sectors of the community.

Subscribing to this newsletter has never been easier. Simply visit the ABS website and subscribe to the email notification service. Be sure to select ... as one of your areas of interest, or simply 'select all' if you are interested in everything. You will be notified as soon as the newsletter is released to the web. Spread the word, now all of your clients and colleagues can get access to the same information.

Feature Articles



FEATURE ARTICLE

A Smorgasboard of Statistics

Here are three useful publications that synthesise a number of statistical sources and paint a picture of Australian society, both in economic and social terms.

General Social Surveys: Summary Results (cat. no. 4159.0)

There is increasing recognition that many social phenomena are inter-related and social policy is becoming less sectoral as a consequence. The 2006 General Social Survey looks at various aspects of wellbeing and how they might be related to each other. Topics include health, housing, education, work, income, financial stress, broad assets and liabilities, transport, social capital, voluntary work, family and community, and crime. You can read the related media release for this publication.



NSW in Focus (cat. no. 1338.1), released on 17 May, provides a contemporary record of activity within the state, presenting an array of useful and interesting statistics from both ABS and non-ABS sources. The materials presented in this publication are organised into twelve chapters representing areas of social or economic importance: population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources, housing, crime and justice, transport, economic activity, and the environment. The final chapter presents national and international indicators.

The 2007 edition includes a chapter on work which provides an expanded analysis of labour force status, underutilisation, job mobility, skilled employment, and information about people not in the labour force. In addition, selected national and international indicators, covering a range of topics, have been included for comparative purposes.

NSW in Focus is an easy to use reference for government agencies, universities, other education facilities, research organisations, businesses and the general community.

Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001)

The MAP products aim to provide a digestible set of statistical evidence to allow Australians to make their own assessment of whether life in Australia is getting better. Measures of

Australia's Progress - Summary Indicators, presents a summary of measures which relate to the 14 headline dimensions of progress presented in MAP. It presents the headline indicators (where a headline indicator is available) at the national level, and a brief summary discussion about the measure and associated trends.

For further information contact client.services@abs.gov.au.

Census



CENSUS

During the lead-up to the 2006 census data release scheduled for July, we are committed to bringing you the latest news and developments.

Census Promotion Ideas

Interest in Census data will be running high over the next few months. The Census is the largest and most comprehensive survey run by the ABS. Census data is an absolute necessity in a democracy, as well as what it does for communities and individuals in terms of planning.

Be prepared! Here is a list of ideas you can adopt to ensure you and your community get the most out of Census 2006.

- visit the Census homepage. A one-stop-shop for access to census data and related information.
- Sign up to receive Census Update, an electronic newsletter with the latest Census news and information, by emailing census.users@abs.gov.au and typing in "add to Census email" in the subject field. You can opt out at any time.
- Look at the wealth of information available on the ABS website, such as the excellent resource 2006 Census: What you need to know
- Organise training for your clients on how to access free Census data.
- Attend one of the many Census information sessions held around the country both leading up to and following the release of Census data.
- advertise and promote your activities in your local or internal press. For example, you can focus on earlier census data for your local area and measure how the community has changed.

The ABS is happy to discuss your particular organisation's needs for any of the above ideas. Please contact your local ABS consultant to discuss how we can support you in supporting your clients.

Shortcuts



SHORTCUTS

ABS Microdata - It's all in the detail

Do you need more detailed ABS statistics than is available from the ABS website?
Do you want to do quantitative research analysis, microsimulation or modelling using detailed statistical data?

The Confidentialised Unit Record File, or CURF, is the most detailed data product available from the ABS.

A CURF is a file of responses to an ABS survey that has had specific identifying information about a person or organisation removed, so it is 'confidentialised'.



Who uses CURFs?

Research using ABS microdata underpins government and other policy and program developments, and contributes to debate on a wide range of topics. Check out some examples of published research that uses CURF data. CURFs are used by researchers and analysts in:

- universities
- government agencies
- private sector

What is available?

Almost 100 CURFs are available, representing many ABS statistical collections. Some of the most heavily used CURFs are those for the Business Longitudinal Survey, National Health Survey, Census of Population and Housing and the Household Expenditure Survey.

How do I access CURFs?

CURF data is released under strict conditions. There are three ways to access CURFs:

- CD-ROM (for basic CURFs only)
- Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)
- ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) on site in ABS

To find out more, visit the ABS website CURF microdata pages or email microdata.access@abs.gov.au

Public Libraries



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

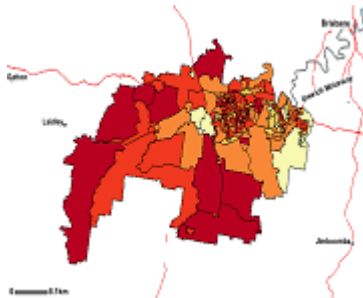
Pilot Regional Social Atlas Program

Queensland LEP coordinator Dianne O'Brien visited Ipswich Library in early April to introduce the library staff to the Pilot Regional Social Atlas program.

The aim of this pilot program is to enable libraries to produce a regional atlas that is specific to their own area. The atlas is modelled on the Brisbane Social Atlas which presents a set of

colour maps and commentaries of the key social, demographic and economic characteristics of Brisbane, at the time of the 2001 Census.

For this project Dianne used [MapStats](#) to produce the maps and Census [Community Profiles](#) to provide the data for the commentaries. Dianne and the library staff worked together through each profile searching for the correct data in the referenced Community Profiles and entering it into the spaces provided.



IPSWICH (C) (Local Government Area)

Home Ownership

Dwellings that were owner-occupied or being purchased

**As a percentage of all occupied private dwellings
Based on Location on Census Night, 2001**

At the 2001 Census dwellings were either owned by their occupants or being purchased. This represents% of total occupied private dwellings in Ipswich.

The advantages of this project are that not only do library staff have practical experience with researching Census data that they can pass on to clients but the end result of the project is an Ipswich specific product that can be displayed in their Library. When all the profiles have been completed it will be a relatively simple task to update the Atlas with 2006 data.

The session was enthusiastically received, with Library staff willing to take away 'homework'!

Want to talk to the ABS about training? Please contact your local ABS consultant to discuss your needs.

About this Release

The ABS News for Libraries Newsletter is produced by the Information Skills Program and distributed to libraries in the public, education and government sectors. The newsletter keep them up to date on the news and items of interest to the library community, including web site developments, training and publications of relevance, and to promote ABS products and services.

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